a pen with erasable ink. His exams had no crossed out words or sentences, which might have indicated to the instructor that he didn't know the material. And his simple innovation paid off with big grade returns.

My son had difficulty identifying dozens of different paintings by various masters in an art history class as they were flashed on a screen. Then he noticed certain similar characteristics, not in the paintings themselves, but in the *photographs* of the paintings. Some were shot with a filter. Others were shot with identifying features such as ropes or curtains surrounding the paintings. He had found a way to remember the paintings for the test. His stress level went down. And his interest level went up. He received an "A" in the course – and enjoyed it.

One more example of creative thinking. A pre-med student decided wisely to audit organic chemistry (one of the most difficult requisites for medical school) before taking it for credit and a grade. She not only took careful notes, but also practiced taking all the exams. When she finally took the course for credit, she got an A instead of a possible lower grade.

- Remember, there is no single, correct way to study, take a test, or get through college.
- You must determine what is right for you. And you can only do that through imagination, innovation and mental creativity.

19. Take Worthwhile Notes.

Taking worthwhile notes is one of the critical skills essential to survival in college. It is easy to take good notes.

To begin with, take notes with a purpose other than just to fill up a page with words. No one gives you credit for the number of words in your notebook. You only get credit for a few right words – on exams.

The purpose of note taking is to get key points from textbooks and lectures. A key point is an answer to an exam question. There are only about five to ten key points in every reading assignment and lecture. If a class meets 45 times a semester, you will have approximately 400 important key points in your notes.

- Take notes with a purpose.
- Take short notes.
- Use key words.